

LERU Doctoral Summer School  
*Sharing Excellence - The Value of Knowledge Exchange*  
University of Oxford  
13-17 July 2015



## Theme

The theme of the summer school will be *knowledge exchange*: the mutually beneficial sharing of ideas, data, experience, and expertise between academics and non-academic organisations or the public as a means of fostering innovation and excellence, which is relevant to all disciplines and subject areas, across both the arts and sciences. This sharing of knowledge and expertise is a two-way, dynamic process, distinct from the one-way dissemination of research findings. It has the potential to foster understanding and advance excellence across disciplinary, institutional, national, and international borders.

Familiarity with the techniques of knowledge exchange is becoming increasingly crucial to the development of successful research careers both within the university sector and in the world of commercially focussed research. These skills are also essential for delivering successful outcomes through Horizon 2020, the goal of which is to remove barriers to innovation and make it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation.

Oxford is an ideal location for a summer school on this topic; as well as being the oldest university in the English-speaking world, it is also a commercial and cultural hub with extensive engagement and partnership activities well-established within industry, government and community locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

## Objectives

To encourage students to gain a better understanding of the benefits and impact of information sharing and collaboration, and to assist them to develop the core skills needed for involvement in knowledge exchange in order to enrich and advance their own research excellence as well as that of others.

## Expected learning outcomes

- An understanding of what knowledge exchange is, and its benefits, both to researchers and partners;
- Recognition of the resources students already have to offer, both in terms of knowledge and transferrable skills;
- An awareness of the different types of potential knowledge exchange partners and how they might be approached and engaged;
- Development of some of the core skills required for knowledge exchange, including communicating about research, networking, negotiation, and securing funding.

The programme will include a range of activities designed to facilitate learning and skill development, including workshops, plenary sessions, arts-/sciences-focused case study discussions, networking opportunities, and a visit to industry. In addition, participants will also be engaged through the duration

of the school in a small group task in which-- with the help of experienced mentors - they will bring their own skills and research expertise together to design and then present a potential knowledge exchange project in a concluding showcase.

### **Participant requirements**

Candidates for the summer school will be nominated by their institution. They should be well advanced in their doctoral project and keenly motivated to work on the topic of the summer school (knowledge exchange). Candidates must be available for the entire duration of the summer school, and must be prepared to participate in all activities. All sessions will be conducted in English, and therefore fluency in both spoken and written English is essential. There are 42 places for candidates from LERU universities and a few additional places to be awarded at the discretion of the organising university.

### **Participation costs**

£400 (approximately €500) per participant. This cost includes course materials, accommodation in an Oxford college ([Mansfield College](#)) for five nights from 12-17 July (Sunday night - Friday morning), and meals.

### **Additional costs**

Travel to and from Oxford is not included in the summer school cost. Participants will also be expected to cover the cost of any additional social activities undertaken.